

13 January 1954

NSC BRIEFING

CONFIDENTIAL

TURKEY TAKES INITIATIVE IN PROMOTING MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE

Turkey's decision to assume the initiative in promoting the military development of Pakistan, with the support of the United States, greatly increases the probability of a realistic Middle East defense system.

I. Turkey, in note to US government on 11 January, considers an agreement with Pakistan a basis for regional security.

A. Turkey expresses hope that proposed Turkish-Pakistani agreement may become nucleus for Middle East defense organization.

1. Sees Iran, Afghanistan, and some of the Arab states, particularly Iraq, as later adherents.

B. Turkey has developed systematic and realistic defense arrangements with neighbors.

1. Joined NATO on 15 February 1952.

2. Signed Treaty of Friendship and Collaboration with

With Greece and Yugoslavia on 28 February 1953. This strengthened northwestern and western frontiers.

25X1
10
01990
REVIEWER
1-380
State Department review completed

3. Efforts aimed at conclusion of an agreement with Pakistan and eventually Iran and Iraq would strengthen its southeastern flank.

II. Turkey's conception of a desirable Turkish-Pakistani Agreement.

A. Proposes a "loose" agreement providing for exchange of military information and for cooperation in technical progress of ~~the~~ two countries.

B. Regards a binding military alliance, or contingent defense arrangement like tripartite Ankara treaty, as neither feasible nor advisable now.

C. Regards later adherence of Iran and Iraq highly desirable, but not currently judicious.

D. Ankara's approach predicated on some American military aid being furnished Pakistan.

III. Turkey calculates anticipated reactions of neighboring states.

A. Turkish Foreign Ministry feels Indian neutralism may become more militant if Pakistan drawn into defense arrangement,

but India will not join hands with Orbit.

B. Turkey expects reaction in Moscow and Peiping to follow normal pattern of warning and threat. The note states: "We have not deemed it necessary to dwell on the reaction of Russians and Communist Chinese."

C. Recognizing its close ties with Afghanistan, Turkey stresses importance of not offending that country.

Conclusion:

Turkey wants to continue exchange of 25X6 ideas with United States and further study of best tactics for creation of a regional defense barrier across northern tier of Middle East.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~